

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for cleaning interdental spaces, comprising:

a tubular guide element having an axis and a first profiled open end to allow its positioning at the entry to an interdental space and its bearing against teeth;

cleaning means mounted movably in said tubular guide element and having an axis;

support means for said cleaning means having a first end and a second end and a fixed longitudinal direction relative to the axis of said tubular guide element, said cleaning means being fixed at a said first end of said support means and having an axis constrained to remain coincident with that the axis of said tubular guide element; and

gripping means for moving said cleaning means, ~~said gripping means being connected to~~ comprising a tubular body having an axis aligned with the axis of said tubular guide element, said tubular body surrounding said tubular guide element and having an open first end for allowing the passage of said tubular guide element and a second end connected to the second end of said support means; and

return means ~~tending to return said cleaning means inside~~ interposed between the second end of said tubular body and the second end of said tubular guide element; ;

wherein when the first end of the tubular guide element is applied against teeth and a force is applied to ~~the gripping means~~ said tubular body, the cleaning means move entirely outside the first end of said tubular guide element; and

in the absence of force, the cleaning means are entirely disposed within said tubular guide element.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The cleaning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gripping means comprise a tubular body having an axis aligned with that of said tubular guide element, said tubular body being movable relative to said tubular guide element ~~in the common direction of the axes~~ along a common axis of said tubular body and said tubular guide element, and said support means comprise a rod arranged along said

common axis and having a first end integral with said cleaning means and a second end integral with said tubular body.

4. (Currently Amended) The cleaning device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ~~elastic return member~~ means is a helical spring surrounding said rod and interposed between said tubular guide element and said tubular gripping body.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The cleaning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cleaning means comprise an interdental brush.

8. (Previously Presented) The cleaning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first profiled end of the tubular guide element is frustoconical in order to facilitate the positioning of said device relative to the interdental space.

9. (Currently Amended) The cleaning device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the internal diameter of the common part of said tubular guide element is substantially equal to the external diameter of said brush, and wherein the diameter of the first end of the tubular guide element is smaller than that of the common part of the tubular guide element.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising fixing means ~~that can be detached from said cleaning means at the end of~~ disposed at the first end of said support means for removably fixing said cleaning means with said support means.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A device for cleaning interdental spaces, comprising:  
a tubular guide element having an axis and a first profiled open end to allow its positioning at the entry to an interdental space and its bearing against teeth;  
cleaning means mounted movably in said tubular guide element and having an axis;

support means for said cleaning means having a first end and a second end and a fixed longitudinal direction relative to the axis of said tubular guide element, said cleaning

means being fixed at said first end of said support means and having an axis constrained to remain coincident with the axis of said tubular guide element; and

gripping means for moving said cleaning means comprising a tubular body having an axis aligned with the axis of said tubular guide element, said tubular body surrounding said tubular guide element and having an open first end for allowing the passage of said tubular guide element and a second end connected to the second end of said support means; and

return means interposed between the second end of said tubular body and the second end of said tubular guide element;

wherein when the first end of the tubular guide element is applied against teeth and a force is applied to said tubular body, the cleaning means move entirely outside the first end of said tubular guide element;

in the absence of force, the cleaning means are entirely disposed within said tubular guide element; and

wherein said cleaning means comprise an interdental brush.